The scheme covers the entire country and funds would be provided for electrification of un-electrified villages and un- electrified habitations.

This scheme merges the scheme of "Accelerated Electrification of One lakh villages and one crore households" under which there was a provision for about 40% capital subsidy for eligible projects. Under the earlier scheme, based on the proposals submitted by the States of UP, 62 districts based project, covering 30802 villages, 12, 58,844 rural households including 7,99,417 BPL households involving a total outlay of Rs. 2,291.4 crore had been sanctioned in 2004-05.

Forming a Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone

3676. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formed a Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone to create infrastructure in rural areas for power distribution;

(b) if so, the details of the REDB;

(c) whether the REC will funds this new entity;

(d) what are the specific technical objectives of the REDB; and

(e) the details of States where REDB be implemented first?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SYEED): (a) to (e) A new scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been launched for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to electricity to all Rural Households in five years. The scheme would be implemented through Rural Electrification Corporation.

Under this scheme 90% Capital subsidy would be provided for projects for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11KV (or 66/11 KV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Instrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations with distribution transformers(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from Central sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

The scheme also provides for electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

The scheme cover the entire country.

The REDB would also cater to the requirements of agriculture and other activities including Irrigation pumpsets, small and medium industries, Khadi and village industries, cold chain, healthcare and education and IT and would facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.

Gap between demand and supply of electricity

3677. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is aiming at generating 1,70,000 MW in the next ten years to bridge the gap between demand and supply and also to realize the dream of achieving power for all by 2010;

(b) what are the short-term and long-term programmes and polices that the Government have to achieve the above target;

(c) what is the total capacity addition that the Ministry has targeted in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Ministry have received any representations from people or units concerned for revising the definition of 'Mega Power Project' by lowering the capacity limit to 250 MW from the present 1000 MW; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) No, Sir. Central Electiricty Authority (CEA) has estimated that an additional capacity of 1,00,000 MW would be required by 2012 to meet the power demand in full. A capacity addition target of 41,110 MW has been envisaged for Tenth Plan. The remaining capacity is planned for Eleventh Plan.

(b) the Steps taken by the Government to achieve the target are given as under:—

- A capacity addition of 41,110 MW has been targeted for Tenth Five Year Plan in the country. Projects worth over 60,000 MW have been identified for being set up in Eleventh Plan and advance action has already been started to ensure their commissioning in Eleventh Plan.